

COALITION OF MILITARY MEDICAL CENTER NEIGHBORS

January 11, 2010

Dear Lt. Governor Brown and County Executive Leggett:

The recent appropriation of \$300 million for BRAC facilities in the National Capital region is a significant step toward funding projects needed to serve the needs of the military while preserving quality of life in the community around the Medical Center area. Members of the Coalition want to be certain, however, that negotiations between the county, state and federal entities (including the U.S. Navy, National Institutes of Health, and the State Highway Administration) reflect the input of the community with regard to how this money is ultimately spent.

Stakeholder representation is critical to create and implement the overall plans for infrastructure improvement that will serve the new Walter Reed, NIH (which continues to grow per its approved Master Plan), the surrounding residential neighborhoods, the economically vital business and cultural communities and the many life-enhancing institutions in the area. It is also vital that the State and County uphold their commitment to do this right by contributing their share of allocated resources to the necessary work. To date, the county has committed \$5 million to bike and ped ways and the State has appropriated \$45 million, \$15 million of which already has been deferred, to intersection improvements. We are also waiting for approval of money from the Federal DOT TIGER grant and the Department of Defense DAR certification for improvements at the Medical Center Metro.

The Coalition remains committed to finding multiple and integrated transportation and transit solutions that reduce the number of Single Occupancy Vehicles on the roadways that serve the Medical Center area including State roads such as Old Georgetown Road (Route 187), Connecticut Avenue (Route 185), Wisconsin Avenue (Route 355), and County roads such as Cedar Lane and Jones Bridge Road.

As stated since 2007, we would like to see funds go toward the following objectives that address the greater good of the area as a whole with a focus on maintaining quality of life of the surrounding area:

- Create the plan for a **comprehensive and integrated transportation infrastructure** including intersection improvements to support anticipated growth and development in the transit area from Old Georgetown Road to Connecticut Avenue, including Wisconsin Avenue
- Support the Navy, NIH, Suburban/Hopkins and other employers in their efforts to **implement transportation Demand Management programs** to reduce the number of SOVs traveling to and from the Medical Center area
- Increase safe and convenient access to reliable **public transportation**, especially as it relates to traversing Route 355

- Improve and connect **pedestrian and bike** access to and around the Medical Center area
- Provide dedicated **drop-off/pick-up areas** on perimeters for cars, car pools, van pools and shuttle services in the Medical Center area
- Study the feasibility of **direct access** to the Medical Center area from I-495

For the Bethesda BRAC's success both inside and outside the fence, it is critical that the community continues to play a role crafting the necessary coordinated and integrated transportation solutions. As before, we ask you to direct your representatives to continue to solicit the considered judgment of the BRAC Implementation Committee (BIC), the Coalition and of other members of the community as we get to critical decision making junctures in this process. We pledge to continue to work to ensure that all proposed infrastructure projects are based on judicious use of funds and benefit the community as a whole.

Sincerely,

Ilaya Rome Hopkins
Chair

cc:

John Carman
Ken Hartman
Andy Scott
Barb Solberg
Chris Van Hollen
Ben Cardin
Barbara Mikulski
Rear Admiral Nathan
Nancy Floreen
Roger Berliner
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Bill Bronrott
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